

EPA-R5-2014-003667RR-6

**MaryPat  
Tyson/R5/USEPA/US**  
03/31/2009 09:44 AM

To R5 ARD-ATAB-IATS, R5 ARD-ATAB-IATS, R5  
ARD-ATAB-IMM  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fw: Schools Initiative Materials

FYI - Motria and Jaime are our point persons on this if you have questions.

----- Forwarded by MaryPat Tyson/R5/USEPA/US on 03/31/2009 09:42 AM -----

**Cheryl Newton/R5/USEPA/US** To

03/31/2009 08:26 AM





Subject Schools Initiative Materials

Good morning - EPA issued the press release on the schools effort at 9:00 am EST (attached). I have included all of the external materials that are currently available. In addition, HQ made a decision to provide USAToday an exclusive yesterday, so I've also attached the USAToday article; several R5 contacts and issues are covered.

The Team will be working with your contacts to send additional materials to the schools; for example, we've been provided a sample letter that schools can use to send home to parents. I've attached a sample of that letter as well.

Please let us know if you have any questions. I know the coming weeks will require a lot of coordination to ensure the monitors are delivered and sited, the samples are collected, etc. Questions about how/when the data will be made publically available are still being worked out; you can see the general response to that question in the FAQs. We'll let you know more as soon as we hear.

Thanks!

   
3-30-09 School Air fact sheet.doc 3.30.09.EXTERNAL.Schools Monitoring.FAQs.doc  
   
3-31-09 School Air.doc letterR5.doc

**Ex. 5-Deliberative Process**

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2009-03-30-monitor\\_N.htm?loc=interstitials](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2009-03-30-monitor_N.htm?loc=interstitials)  
kip

Schools glad to have EPA sample air

By Brad Heath and Blake Morrison, USA TODAY

Terry Babbitt responded the way an educator might when he first heard that the air around one of the elementary schools in his west Michigan town of Norton Shores might be tainted with toxic chemicals: He wanted to know more.

So does the Environmental Protection Agency. Monday, it began notifying officials at school districts across the nation — among them Babbitt, the superintendent of the Mona Shores school district — that it planned to take air samples outside schools. In Norton Shores, regulators will

monitor outside Lincoln Park Elementary School to see what danger, if any, students face from pollution.

The agency will monitor outside 62 schools in 22 states.

"I volunteered our assistance," Babbitt said Monday. "And, frankly, I thanked them."

Babbitt has been concerned since late last year, when a USA TODAY investigation showed students at Lincoln Park Elementary might be exposed to high levels of chromium and other toxic chemicals.

USA TODAY subsequently teamed with Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland to take "snapshot" air samples near 95 schools in 30 states. The series prompted the EPA to launch its most comprehensive study ever of the impact of pollution outside the schools. In most cases, the agency plans to install monitoring equipment on school grounds, EPA spokeswoman Adora Andy said.

"We want to be able to get information with some confidence to determine where air toxics might pose health risks outside schools," said EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.

During Jackson's confirmation hearing in January, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., pushed for the monitoring program after calling USA TODAY's series "a shocking story of child neglect." Four California schools are on the EPA list, and Boxer said Monday that she hoped the list of 62 schools would eventually grow.

"In my state, there are so many pockets of dangerous air pollution, including the Central Valley and the Inland Empire, and those areas need to be looked at as well," said Boxer, head of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

One city where some residents wish the EPA would come is Attica, Ind. There, Harold Long spent 20 years as principal of Attica Elementary School. He served a dozen years as mayor of the town of 3,500. Long, 77, said his concern for Attica residents is one reason he ran for school board last year. It's also why he resigned this month, he said.

After USA TODAY cited government data showing the air outside schools in Attica may be rife with toxic chemicals, Long said he pushed the district to monitor outside the schools. When Long's motion to take air samples was voted down at a school board meeting Jan. 26 — because of the costs involved — he decided he could no longer serve.

Attica school board president Michael Wrighthouse says monitoring costs were a factor. Monitoring would cost "in the neighborhood of \$50,000. I don't think many systems have that sort of money lying around anymore. Certainly, we don't."

State environmental officials told Attica's school board this month that they do not think the town's air is dangerous. Brian Wolff, project management section chief for the state's Office of Air Quality, says officials reviewed emission reports from a nearby steel company and checked

them against wind patterns and other government pollution models. Wolff acknowledged the state has not monitored the air in Attica for toxic chemicals.

Last week, another Indiana resident, Ron Kurth, filed a lawsuit on behalf of his 16-year-old daughter and thousands of other children who attend schools in Lake County, Ind., where Gary and East Chicago are located. It cites USA TODAY's investigation and lists 11 Indiana industries as defendants. The suit calls on the industries to pay for medical monitoring of children.

The EPA plans to monitor the air outside two Lake County schools — one in Gary and the other in East Chicago.

EPA Administrator Jackson said Monday that she hopes parents will embrace the effort to learn more about what's in the air their children breathe. "I would say to those parents that this is information and knowledge." She said seeing their child's school on the list of 62 is "probably the best possible news."

That also how East Liverpool, Ohio, Superintendent Ken Halbert sees it. When he heard Monday that the district's La Croft/East Elementary School was on the EPA's list, he said he felt "it's a win-win. ... This will enable us to find out if there is a problem, and if there isn't, it gives us peace of mind."